

PRECISION ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALTIES, INC.

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Kimberly Topper
Food and Drug Administration, CDER
Advisors and Consultant Staff, HFD-21
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Topper,

I practice in Cleveland, Ohio as a physiatrist. A fair portion of my practice does involve chronic pain and most of it is non-malignant in nature. I work in an orthopedic practice and therefore I do see a fair percentage of non-operative spine patients. Unfortunately for most of these patients, there are no surgical options. Further more, a small percentage of these patients will not respond to physical therapy, anti-inflammatories, muscles relaxers, job modification, etc. and we are left with very few options. One such option is pain control with narcotic medications. We in the office keep very accurate records of how much medication is dispensed and when it was dispensed.

It is important for the FDA to understand that there is an indication for narcotic medications in non-malignant pain. Patients with non-operative conditions of the spine and other conditions which cause disabling severe pain really have nothing else to turn to. The pain medication, when used appropriately, does allow them to function at or near their full potential and they are able to continue with their productive active lifestyle in most cases. Naturally, as with anything, there will be people who abuse medications and we should do everything in our power to control diversion and abuse problems. We should, however, make sure that the patients who legitimately do require pain medications are able to receive them.

Respectfully,



Amardeep S. Chauhan, D.O.
AC/sc